

IVS ORGANIZATION

OBJECTIVES

IVS is an international collaboration of organizations which operate or support Very Long Baseline Interferometry (VLBI) components. The goals are:

1. To provide a service to support geodetic, geophysical and astrometric research and operational activities.
2. To promote research and development activities in all aspects of the geodetic and astrometric VLBI technique.
3. To interact with the community of users of VLBI products and to integrate VLBI into a global Earth observing system.

The IVS

- Interacts closely with the IERS, which is tasked by IAU and IUGG with maintaining the international celestial and terrestrial reference frames (ICRF and ITRF),
- coordinates VLBI observing programs,
- sets performance standards for the observing stations,
- establishes conventions for data formats and products,
- issues recommendations for analysis software,
- sets standards for analysis documentation,
- institutes appropriate product delivery methods in order to insure suitable product quality and timeliness.

REALIZATION AND STATUS OF IVS

IVS consists of

- 29 Network Stations, acquiring high performance VLBI data,
- 3 Operation Centers, coordinating the activities of a network of Network Stations,
- 6 Correlators, processing the acquired data, providing feedback to the stations and providing processed data to analysts,
- 6 Data Centers, distributing products to users, providing storage and archiving functions,
- 21 Analysis Centers, analyzing the data and producing the results and products,
- 7 Technology Development Centers, developing new VLBI technology,
- 1 Coordinating Center, coordinating daily and long term activities.

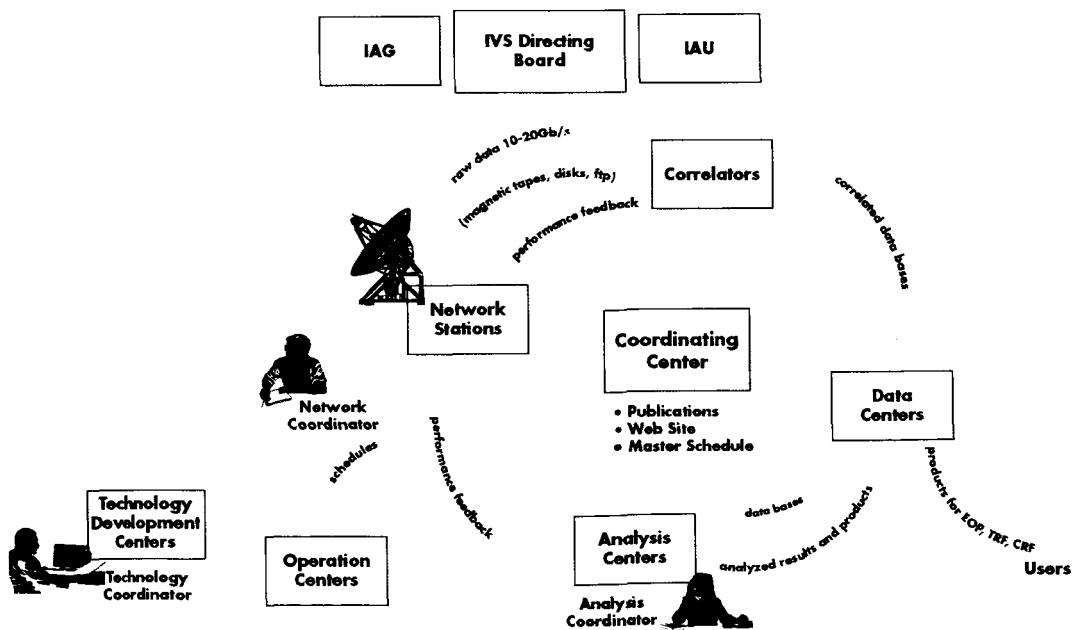
Altogether

- 73 Permanent Components, representing 37 institutions in 17 countries,
- ~250 Associate Members.

In addition the IVS has:

- Directing Board, determining policies, standards and goals; the board is composed of 15 members (elected and ex officio), including
- Coordinators for the network, analysis and technology.

ORGANIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL VLBI SERVICE



IVS MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

The following organizations contribute to IVS by supporting one or more IVS components. They are considered IVS Members. Listed alphabetically by country.

Organization	Country
Geoscience Australia	Australia
University of Tasmania	Australia
Vienna University of Technology	Austria
Centro de Rádio Astronomia e Aplicações Espaciais	Brazil
Space Geodynamics Laboratory	Canada
Geodetic Survey Division, Natural Resources Canada	Canada
Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory	Canada
Canadian Space Agency	Canada
Universidad de Concepción	Chile
Universidad del Bío Bío	Chile
Universidad Católica de la Santísima Concepción	Chile
Instituto Geográfico Militar of Chile	Chile
Chinese Academy of Sciences	China
Observatoire de Paris	France
Observatoire de Bordeaux	France
Deutsches Geodätisches Forschungsinstitut	Germany
Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie	Germany
Geodetic Institute of the University of Bonn	Germany
Forschungseinrichtung Satellitengeodäsie, TU-Munich	Germany
Istituto di Radioastronomia CNR	Italy
Agenzia Spaziale Italiana	Italy
Geographical Survey Institute	Japan
Communications Research Laboratory	Japan
National Astronomical Observatory of Japan	Japan
National Institute of Polar Research	Japan
Norwegian Defence Research Establishment	Norway
Norwegian Mapping Authority	Norway
Astronomical Institute of St.-Petersburg University	Russia
Institute of Applied Astronomy	Russia
Hartebeesthoek Radio Astronomy Observatory	South Africa
Instituto Geográfico Nacional	Spain
Chalmers University of Technology	Sweden

Organization Country

Main Astronomical Observatory,		
National Academy of Sciences, Kiev		Ukraine
Laboratory of Radioastronomy of Crimean Astrophysical Observatory		Ukraine
NASA Goddard Space Flight Center		USA
U. S. Naval Observatory		USA
Jet Propulsion Laboratory		USA

IVS AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

The following organizations cooperate with IVS on issues of common interest, but do not support an IVS component. Affiliated Organizations express an interest in establishing and maintaining a strong working association with IVS to mutual benefit. Listed alphabetically by country.

Organization	Country
Australian National University	Australia
University of New Brunswick	Canada
Max-Planck-Institut für Radioastronomie	Germany
FÖMI Satellite Geodetic Observatory	Hungary
Korea Astronomy Observatory	Korea
Joint Institute for VLBI in Europe (JIVE)	Netherlands
Westerbork Observatory	Netherlands
Central (Pulkovo) Astronomical Observatory	Russia
National Radio Astronomy Observatory	USA

PRODUCTS

The VLBI technique contributes uniquely to

- Definition and realization of the International Celestial Reference Frame (ICRF)
- Monitoring of Universal Time (UT1) and length of day (LOD)
- Monitoring the coordinates of the celestial pole (nutation and precession)

Further significant products are

- All components of Earth Orientation Parameters at regular intervals
- Station coordinates and velocity vectors for the realization and maintenance of the International Terrestrial Reference Frame (ITRF)

All VLBI data and results in appropriate formats are archived in data centers and publicly available for research in related areas of geodesy, geophysics and astrometry.

<http://ivscc.gsfc.nasa.gov>